UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

PROVISIONAL

A/45/PV.79
28 June 1991

ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SEVENTY-NINTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 28 June 1991, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. PEERTHUM (Mauritius)
(Vice-President)

- United Nations common system; United Nations pension system: report of the Fifth Committee [127] [128] (continued)

- Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: request submitted by the Secretary-General for the reopening of agenda item 131 [8] (continued)

- Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa: letter from the Secretary-General [34] (continued)

- Programme of work

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91-64237/A 5268V (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 127 AND 128 (continued)

UNITED NATIONS COMMON SYSTEM; UNITED NATIONS PENSION SYSTEM: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/1031)

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will first consider the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda items 127, United Nations common system, and 128, United Nations pension system, contained in document A/45/1031.

I request the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, Mr. Shamel Elsayed Nasser of Egypt, to introduce the report of the Fifth Committee.

Mr. NASSER (Egypt), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee: I have the honour once again to present to the General Assembly the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda items 127, United Nations common system, and 128, United Nations pension system, which is contained in document A/45/1031.

As stated in paragraph 2 of its report, the Committee considered these two agenda items at its 63rd and 64th meetings on 26 and 27 June 1991. In paragraph 4 of the report it states that at the 64th meeting the Chairman of the Committee put before the Committee the text of the draft resolution, as orally revised, contained in paragraph 7 of the report.

When introducing the draft resolution, the Chairman of the Fifth Committee noted that the Committee was fully aware of and sensitive to the Geneva staff's concerns with regard to the pension question. It was for this reason that the Assembly mandated comprehensive studies by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and the United Nations Pension Board. He recalled that the Committee had felt that a unilateral solution would not be the answer to these concerns and that requests had been addressed by the

(Mr. Nasser, Rapporteur, Fifth Committee)

Committee not to take unilateral action and to refrain from implementing any such action that may have been contemplated. He added that the Committee firmly believed in the preservation of the United Nations common system and that the solution should be found within the framework of the United Nations common system.

The draft resolution contains eight preambular paragraphs and seven operative paragraphs. In the first three preambular paragraphs, the Assembly recalls and addresses the role of the ICSC relating to the establishment of the conditions of entitlement for staff.

In the fourth preambular paragraph, the Assembly recalls that the Committee has previously requested the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board to study the proposal of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

In the fifth preambular paragraph, it notes that in resolution 45/242 the Pension Board has given priority to the development of a long-term approach to the determination of initial local currency pensions.

In the sixth preambular paragraph, it expresses concern about the potential impact on the common system and the pension system of the decision of the seventy-eighth session of the International Labour Conference to proceed with its proposal to establish a voluntary thrift benefit fund.

The last preambular paragraph takes account of the statements made in the Fifth Committee at its 63rd meeting.

In paragraph 1 the Assembly expresses deep concern and regret at the actions taken unilaterally by ITU and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) without due regard for their obligations under the common system.

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Paragraph 2 reaffirms that the conditions of service of the staff should be determined in accordance with principles aimed at the development of a single unified international civil service through the application of common personnel standards, methods and arrangements.

In paragraph 3, it emphasizes the obligation of all organizations of the common system to consult and cooperate fully with the ICSC and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board on matters relating to conditions of service and pensions.

In paragraph 4, the ICSC and the United Nations are requested to examine the implications of the decision by the two organizations and to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

In paragraph 5 it reiterates that this matter should be given highest priority.

In paragraph 6, the Assembly reiterates its appeal to the organizations of the United Nations common system to refrain from seeking to establish for their staff, whether by provisions in their staff regulations or by other means, additional entitlement and benefits, as such actions would be detrimental to the common system, under which all staff should receive equal treatment, irrespective of their employing organizations.

In paragraph 7, it requests the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), to urge all Executive Heads to cooperate fully with the ICSC in the discharge of its responsibilities under article 1 of its Statute.

The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted by the Fifth Committee, without a vote.

The PRESIDENT: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the report of the Fifth Committee which is before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendation of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that:

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

(The President)

May I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendation contained in the report of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take a decision in the same manner as was done in the Fifth Committee.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee contained in paragraph 7 of its report (A/45/1031). The draft resolution, entitled "United Nations common system and United Nations pension system", was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 45/268).

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda items 127 and 128.

AGENDA ITEM 8 (continued)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK: REQUEST SUBMITTED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR THE REOPENING OF AGENDA ITEM 131 (A/45/1030)

The PRESIDENT: I should like to invite the attention of members to a note by the Secretary-General (A/45/1030), requesting that agenda item 131, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission" (UNAVEM II) be reopened to enable the Assembly to consider the financing proposals of the Secretary-General that would permit UNAVEM II to undertake its new mandate. In light of this request, may I take it that the Assembly decides to reopen consideration of agenda item 131?

I see no objection.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Members will recall that, at its 3rd plenary meeting on 21 September 1990, the Assembly allocated this item to the Fifth Committee. May I take it that the Assembly again wishes to allocate this item to the Fifth Committee?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The Chairman of the Fifth Committee will be informed of the decision just taken concerning the Fifth Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 34 (continued)

POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA: LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/45/1029)

The PRESIDENT: In connection with this item, the Assembly has before it a letter from the Secretary-General, issued as document A/45/1029, proposing to postpone until a later date, prior to the closure of the forty-fifth session, the submission of the report called for by General Assembly resolution 44/244 of 17 September 1990 and seeking the Assembly's concurrence with the proposed postponement.

May I take it that the Assembly concurs with the proposed postponement?

I see no objection.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 34.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: I should like to inform members that the next plenary meeting of the General Assembly will be announced in the Journal.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.